

calomel, diaphoretics, and evacuants more particularly; and at another period by quinine and stimulants, or under ordinary circumstances, by both timously employed. Its treatment in general, should bear reference to the preponderating symptoms at the time being, bearing ever in view the leading feature or fact in the case—that the disease is essentially based upon debility! The excitement of organs or inflammation present, being not the cause, but the consequence of fever and of general derangement,—a fact that must be ever borne in mind, and influence us in the whole class of malarial and remittent types of fever; and especially so, with regard to blood-letting, which, in relief of general fever and local inflammation, however properly it may be had recourse to at the early period of the disease, can seldom be practised with impunity at a later period; leeches, followed by a blister, are, therefore, the more appropriate remedies in these cases.”

The foregoing extract, which occupies three pages and a half of Dr. Searle's treatise, will give to our readers a tolerably correct idea of the pathological views inculcated by the author. Some may conclude, that we have given too much space to an exposition of them. We have been desirous of doing justice to the work before us, and of allowing Dr. Searle to explain his doctrines, as far as we were able, in his own words. He believes, that his opinions in regard to cholera, are “as deserving of respect, as those of any man living”—while he trusts, that in respect to fever, he has “stripped it of its protean disguise, and advanced sufficient reasons why his opinions on this subject, also, have more than ordinary claim to attention.”

We feel no disposition to attempt the refutation of, or to undervalue in the least, the pathological or therapeutical views of the author. There is much in relation to both which we approve. Dr. Searle has, however, in our opinion, made a few very great mistakes; first, in attempting to compress too much in too small a compass; secondly, in addressing his work to the unprofessional as well as to the professional public; and thirdly, in merely setting down his opinions in regard to the nature, causes, and connection of disease, without attempting to reason out these opinions, or adducing the series of facts by which their accuracy is established. His explanations are often the expression of mere truisms, and do not advance us the least towards a knowledge of the subjects to which they refer, while, occasionally, he presents as an established truth what is still matter of dispute, or at best merely a probable conjecture, to be proved or disproved by future observations.

Dr. Searle calls upon “the press generally, to aid him in the circulation” of his treatise, while “at the same time, he calls upon the profession and *all mankind* either to confute him in argument, or to exhibit by facts, reasons why the practice enjoined, and treatment recommended, should not be accepted as *deserving universal adoption*!” We really do not believe that the work before us possesses such transcendent merit as to require us to make any very particular exertion to aid in its circulation. The pathological views of the author will not, in all their details, bear, we fear, the test of a very strict examination, and although his therapeutical directions are, generally speaking, judicious, still we cannot in truth say that they are so perfect as to deserve universal adoption. D. F. C.

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ART. XIX.—*The Practice of Medicine: a Treatise on Special Pathology and Therapeutics*. By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., &c. &c. Third edition, 2 vols. 8vo: pp. 767-704. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard.

The work of Dr. Dunglison is too well known to require at our hands, at the present time, an analysis of its contents, or any exposition of the manner in which the author has treated the several subjects embraced in it. The call for a third edition within five years from the appearance of the first, is, of itself, a sufficient evidence of the opinion formed of it by the medical profession of our country. That it is well adapted as a text-book for the use of the student, and at the same time as a book of reference for the practitioner, is very generally admitted; in both points of view, for accuracy and completeness, it will bear a very advanced

tageous comparison with any of the numerous cotemporary publications on the practice of medicine, that have appeared in this country or in Europe.

The edition before us bears the evidence of the author's untiring industry, his familiarity with the various additions which are constantly being made to our pathological and therapeutical knowledge, and his impartiality in crediting the general sources from which his materials have been derived. Several pathological affections, omitted in the former editions, are inserted in the present, while every portion of the work has undergone a very thorough revision. It may with truth be said, that nothing of importance that has been recorded since the publication of the last edition, has escaped the attention of the author; the present edition, may, therefore, be regarded as an adequate exponent of the existing condition of knowledge on the important departments of medicine of which it treats.

D. F. C.

ART. XX.—*Tracts on Generation.* Translated from the German. By C. R. GILMAN, M. D., Prof. of Obstet., College of Phys. and Surg., New York, and THEODORE TELLKAMPF, M. D., Gebhard Professor, Columbia College. No. I.—*Proofs that the Periodic Maturation and Discharge of Ova are, in the Mammalia and the Human Female, independent of Coition, as a first condition of their Propagation.* By T. L. G. BISCHOFF, M. D., Prof. of Physiology, &c., Giessen. 8vo. pp. 65: Samuel S. & William Wood, New York, 1847.

UPON the suggestion of Prof. Agassiz, the translators were induced to render into English this valuable pamphlet of Dr. Bischoff, a pamphlet justly commended by Prof. A. as "*a model in this kind of experiments.*" In this opinion we cannot but concur, as we have already not only expressed our admiration of it, but, as will be seen by reference to the number of this Journal for January, 1845, have made it, chiefly, and the work of Pouchet and Raciborski, the basis of an extended notice of the new theory of the spontaneous and periodic evolution and discharge of ova in all the mammalia,—a fact which the translators appear to have overlooked; so that not only the conclusions of the author, but his mode of experimenting, have been known here for three years past.

The translation is well done, faithfully representing the author's views and opinions; and we sincerely hope that the translators may be encouraged by liberal patronage to go on in the good work they have commenced, that of continuing the series of tracts, with translations of other interesting and original monographs, on the subject of generation. The aid of Prof. Agassiz is promised them in making their selection, a guarantee that it will be judicious.

The typography and paper are unusually good.

C. R. K.

ART. XXI.—*Obstetric Tables: Comprising Graphic Illustrations, with Descriptions and Practical Remarks, exhibiting, on dissected plates, many important subjects in Midwifery.* By G. SPRATT, Surgeon-Accoucheur. First American Edition, from the Fourth and greatly-improved London Edition, carefully revised, and with additional notes and plates. 4to: Wagner & McGuigan, Philadelphia, 1847.

THE object and general character of the present publication are fully set forth in the title-page. It comprises nine plates, illustrating the anatomy of the female organs of generation; the general form and structure of the pelvis, and some of the most common deformities to which it is liable; the anatomy of the uterus and its appendages, and the changes in form and position it undergoes during the several stages of pregnancy; the progressive development of the ovum and fœtus; the presentation of the fœtal head; the operation of turning; the application of instruments, and the Cæsarian operation. These plates are all accurately drawn lithographs; many of them, on a well-devised dissected plan, exhibiting, with tolerable correctness, the relations of, and the progressive changes in, the objects they represent. The obstetric tables of Mr. Spratt are certainly well adapted, so far as any